

MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
YUMA CITY HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 190
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
MARCH 23, 2010
3:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Krieger called the City Council meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Stuart, Mendoza, Beeson, McClendon, Brooks-Gurrola, Johnson and Mayor Krieger
Councilmembers Absent: none
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Mark Watson
Finance Director, Pat Wicks
Deputy Police Chief, John Lekan
City Attorney, Steve Moore
Director of Parks and Recreation, Becky Chavez
Various Department Heads or their representative
Deputy City Clerk, Lynda L. Bushong

I. CITY OF YUMA 2009-10 AND 2010-11 BUDGETS

Watson presented the following Outside Agency Funding:

Agency	Fund	2009-2010 Budget	2010-2011 Budget	Change
Function: Economic Development				
▪ Crossing Park/Riverfront Development	2%	175,000	150,000	(25,000)
▪ Yuma Visitors Bureau (YVB)	2%	650,000	650,000	
▪ Lobbying	General	217,656	217,656	
▪ Greater Yuma EDC		247,500	222,500	(25,000)
▪ Main Street/Heritage Festivals	2%	90,000	81,000	(9,000)
▪ Greater Yuma Port Authority	General	45,000	50,000	5,000
▪ Film Commission	2%	9,000	-	(9,000)
Function: Health and Welfare				
▪ Humane Society	General	457,875		
Option A			\$457,875	
Option B			400,000	(57,875)
▪ Catholic Community Svcs– Safe House	General	22,500	15,500	(7,000)
▪ Catholic Community Svcs – Adult Day/Health Care	General	4,500	-	(4,500)
▪ Community Legal Services	General	5,400		(5,400)
▪ Amberly's Place	General	41,580	41,580	
▪ Crossroads Mission/Detox	General	27,000	27,000	
Function: Culture and Recreation				
▪ Yuma Fine Arts Association	General	35,000	17,500	(17,500)
▪ Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club	General	10,800	5,400	(5,400)
▪ Cultural Council	General	22,500	-	(22,500)
▪ Cultural activities	General	42,566	-	(42,566)
Totals				
		2,103,877		
Option A			1,936,011	(167,866)
Option B			1,878,136	(225,741)

Economic Development

Watson prefaced the discussion with the following comments:

- The \$150,000 line item for Yuma Crossing/Riverfront represents the amount of the contract the City has with Arizona State Parks to operate the Quartermaster Depot.
- The amount allocated to Yuma Visitor's Bureau (YVB) is not being cut because YVB and several of the other agencies have agreed to collaborate more extensively. YVB will be taking over the activities of the Film Commission and much of the publication activities of the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation (Greater Yuma EDC), while continuing its event sponsorship and assistance to Main Street/Heritage Festivals. This will allow those agencies to operate on reduced funding.
 - There is currently a duplication of effort in publishing and with various promotional websites. Collaboration will reduce duplication and its costs.
 - The collaboration would not involve fees and payments; the arrangements would involve in-kind contributions.
- The City utilizes two lobbying firms: The Ferguson Group based on Washington, D.C. and Highground based at the State capital.

Discussion

- Are the various agencies in agreement with YVB taking over some of their work? Wouldn't letting YVB portions of what's being done make for a lack of overall cohesion?
 - City staff has met with Yuma Crossing/Riverfront, the Film Commission, Main Street/Heritage Festivals, Greater Yuma EDC and YVB and they are all in agreement with working through YVB. Now is a good time to redefine Yuma's image and YVB is ready to make strategic changes.
 - Greater Yuma EDC is funded by General Fund monies; if YVB can take over certain activities that are legitimately 2% eligible, that would free up the General Fund.
 - The Film Commission could remain a separate entity; however, its activities could be merged into YVB.
- What is the City getting for its \$50,000 from the Greater Yuma Port Authority (GYPA)?
 - Maybe Somerton got it right by getting out.
- GYPA has issued its annual call for \$50,000
 - Last year the City contributed \$5,000 less than the call and its vote is now in jeopardy; thus, staff is recommending an allocation to GYPA of \$55,000 (\$5,000 to bring last year current and \$50,000 in answer to this year's cash call).
 - The City's overall investment has been approximately \$500,000.
 - Contributions pay for some operations, Executive Director, Jim Chessum's salary and some travel; GYPA is also paying off the bonds that built/extended infrastructure to the area. Parking facilities are yet to be constructed.
 - GYPA has indicated the City will lose its vote for lack of \$5,000, but it will still take the \$45,000.
- The point has reached a critical time; the opening of the port is in the final stages, pending only certain preparations on the Mexico side. Now is not the time to pull back.
 - The port is always at a critical point – it's been at a critical point for the last 12 years.
 - Now is not the time to be furloughing employees in favor of investing in the port.
- The City has a significant investment in the port.
 - Future return on investments is purely speculative; there's no guarantee.
- If the City loses its vote, it will not have any say so in further operations of the port and further development of the industrial park.

- GYPA will be bringing forward its plans on how it will market, for lease or sale, the industrial park parcels.
- Funding for GYPA can be included in the budget at this point and further debated during budget discussions. This discussion is intended to give staff direction in further refining the budget numbers.

Motion (Mendoza/Johnson): To eliminate the \$55,000 allocation to the Greater Yuma Port Authority. RV: **approved** 4-3; Stuart, Beeson and Krieger voting nay.

Health and Welfare

Watson prefaced the discussion on agencies performing health and welfare functions, as follows:

- The Humane Society of Yuma (HSOY) performs animal control for the City; the City has no personnel in place to perform that function.
 - The City allows HSOY to purchase less expensive gas at City of Yuma pumps.
 - Reducing HSOY allocation by \$57,875 would effectively reduce HSOY's animal control officers and vehicles on the road by one each, which would impact the Yuma Police Department (YPD).
 - Option A would leave the funding at \$457,875, the same as last year
 - Option B would reduce HSOY funding to \$400,000
 - San Luis opted out of continuing to contract with HSOY for animal control services and now pays \$67 per night to kennel animals there; kennel services are covered in the City's contract with HSOY, so there is no kennel fee, per se.
- Even though Safe House provides help to families in danger and is a help to YPD, staff is recommending a \$7,000 reduction in its allocation; donors within the community need to be encouraged to give to this organization.
- The City has no mandate to fund Safe House.
- Staff is recommending that Catholic Community Services, Adult Day/Health Care funding be cut.
 - The State has cut funding for this program as well.
- Community Legal Services is being recommended at its current level of funding because it serves the underprivileged; this agency is supported by Community Development Block Grant funding with regard to fair housing practices.
- Amberly's Place funding is not being cut because it provides such a valuable assistance to YPD.
- The funds donated to the City by the Quechan Indian Tribe could be used to pay the City's contribution to some of these organizations.
- The Crossroad Mission/Detox has changed.
 - Intoxicated individuals must meet certain criteria before they can be placed in Crossroad Mission and they must voluntarily enter their program.
 - YPD has no other option – there is no other alcohol abuse rehab program in Yuma.
 - High costs are associated with taking individuals to the Yuma County jail.
 - A public intoxication ordinance could be enacted to specify how people who will not voluntarily enter Crossroads Mission will be handled.
- YPD is now taking reports over the phone, which is a good indication of the toll the economy has taken on the police department.

Wicks: The General Fund has declined by 20% in the last two years. Allocating HSOY \$400,000 would be the equivalent of cutting HSOY on par with City departmental cuts.

Lekan: Although Crossroads Mission does not provide shelter to those intoxicated, it, nonetheless benefits the community by addressing homeless individuals. YPD monitors the City's contract, including expenditures, with Crossroads Mission.

Motion (Johnson/Beeson): To fund the Humane Society as specified by Option B, to fund Amberly's Place at \$41,580, to fund the Crossroads Mission at \$27,000 and to eliminate all funding to Catholic Community Services, Safe House; Catholic Community Services, Adult Day/Health Care; and, Community Legal Services.

Discussion

- If the City fails to fund Safe House, it will still exist but be at the mercy of donors. In addition, its services may not be available to the City of Yuma.
 - Does Yuma County contribute to Safe House?
 - Yuma County has many cities to look out for; the problem is with the State, not Yuma County.
 - Yuma County allocates \$20,000 to Safe House.
 - Safe House provides a great service to YPD; there is no other place to take victims of domestic violence. Safe House provides shelter, food, clothing, transportation and legal guidance.
- Charity begins at home; it doesn't matter what Yuma County does. The City should take care of its own.

Amendment to Motion (Brooks-Gurrola/Stuart): To amend the motion by restoring the funding of \$15,500 for Catholic Community Services – Safe House. Voice vote: **approved** 7-0.

Discussion

- The Quechan gambling proceeds should not be used to substitute for City General funds.
- If Community Legal Services did not receive General Fund monies, it would still be able to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through the CDBG process.
- \$84,080 is the total amount of money being allocated for the health and welfare of people, yet, the amount allocated for dogs and cats is some \$457,875. The solution to this problem is for the City to adopt a comprehensive animal control ordinance and undertake animal control in-house – charging pet owners what it costs to run the program, just like any enterprise fund. This could be done before the budget cycle is completed.
 - Pet owners feel that their dogs and cats are important, too.
 - HSOY charges fees.
 - Taxpayers – even those without pets – are paying the costs for animal control. Those who are responsible for the problem should be the ones paying.
 - In many cases, it's impossible to determine if an animal has an owner and, if so, who. There are thousands and thousands of feral cats in the community.
 - HSOY's services are an extension of YPD services.
 - If the City does not contract with HSOY, it will have to pay kennel fees.

Motion (Brooks-Gurrola/Stuart): To approve funding for agencies as designated in the Health & Welfare portion of the 2010-2011 budget, Option B for the Humane Society. Roll call vote: **approved** 6-1; Krieger voting nay.

Culture and Recreation

Watson began the discussion noting that Local Transportation Assistance Funds have been swept into the State budget and are no longer available to cities. Staff is recommending that funding to the Cultural Council of Yuma (CCY) be cut altogether. The funds going to CCY were used to pay for a part-time employee at the Arts Center and hold certain special events; City staff can step into the position and YVB can continue their events. Cuts in funding to the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club and Yuma Fine Arts Association (YFAA) are being recommended.

Discussion

- YFAA activity contributes to the hospitality industry by bringing people into the area.
 - There is a good possibility YFAA could collaborate with YVB.
- Many in YFAA worked tirelessly to get the 2% tax renewal passed. The Art Center is a critical component to the development of the Downtown and the Riverfront as destination sites. YFAA was cut from \$40,000 to \$35,000 last year; they are working to increase their fundraising. A 20% reduction would equate to more than \$17,500.
- The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club is an extension of the Parks and Recreation Department and helps YPD. It helps prevent gang and graffiti activity and gives kids access to computers and homework assistance. It keeps latchkey kids from becoming problems on the streets.
 - There are other venues for children.
 - The Boys and Girls Club picks up children from their schools and takes them to the facility.

Moore clarified that the Art Center is eligible for 2% Hospitality tax funding.

Motion (Stuart/Johnson): To fund Yuma Fine Arts Association at \$31,500 from the 2% Hospitality tax Fund and eliminate the expenditure from the General Fund. Roll call vote: **approved** 7-0.

Motion #5 (Johnson/Beeson): To eliminate \$5,400 in General Fund support to the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, but to continue CDBG funding, when applicable. Roll call vote: **failed** 3-4; Mendoza, McClendon, Brooks-Gurrola and Krieger voting nay.

Aquatic Options

Chavez presented the following overview and options

Primary Focus of Aquatics Programs

- Teach children to swim
- Provide safe haven for children can be involved in productive activities and keep cool in the summer
 - 3 of 4 City pools are located in low-income areas
 - Children can purchase a low cost lunch
 - Inexpensive entrance fee
- Provide exercise and social opportunities
- Focus on summer months
- Four City Pools
 - Kennedy – largest pool at 550,000 gallons; 50 meters with 8 lanes; has 212' slide; 40,000 gallon wading pool; drained and empty from September to April

- Marcus – 240,000 gallons; 25 yards in length with 10 lanes; shallow section ideal for classes; diving well; 10,000 gallon wading pool
- Carver – smallest pool at 80,000 gallons; used entirely for swim lessons in summer; 25 yards in length with 4 lanes; drained and empty from November to April
- Valley Aquatic Center (VAC) – comprised of 90,000 gallon play pool with 150' slide, dumping buckets, play structure and multi-splash splash pad, and 600,000 gallon competition pool 25 yards wide with 13 lanes.

Aquatics Budget Fiscal Year 2010-2011

- Personnel (89 teens/young adults as lifeguards, water safety instructors and pool managers): \$564,296
- Operational: \$632,680
- Total: \$1,196,976
- Revenues (based on revenues generated during FY08-09 and first month of VAC operations): \$254,000

Fiscal Year 2010-2011 - Options

Option 1: Adjust Summer days at VAC and Kennedy pools		
Staff savings if:		
▪ VAC opens June 5 rather than Memorial Day		\$1,927
▪ Close pools on all three summer holidays		\$3,267
▪ Provide no evening swim at VAC once school starts		\$2,417
▪ Close VAC and Kennedy pools to open swim on Mondays		\$17,354
Total savings:		\$24,965
	2009 Attendance	2009 Revenues
Saturday & Sunday before Memorial Day	913	1,751
Memorial Day	595	1,143
4 th of July	916	2,278
Labor Day	255	661
10 Mondays at Kennedy	2,000	2,705
8 Mondays at VAC	3,578	7,295
12 evenings at VAC	1,284	1,706
Total:	9,541	17,539
Projected Expenses		\$24,965
Projected Revenues		\$17,539
Differential		\$7,426
Consequences: Less opportunity for families to swim; may encourage swimming in less safe locations		

Option 2: Close Marcus Pool and Carver Pool for Winter 2010-2011, October to May; no programming				
				2008-2009 Expenses
▪ Staffing for both pools				\$25,290
▪ Gas: Marcus Pool				\$53,552
▪ Gas: Carver Pool				\$5,000
▪ APS (Carver only)				\$1,200
▪ Chemicals for Carver				\$5,448
▪ Water for Carver				\$1,000
Total:				\$91,490
				2008-2009 Revenues
2008-2009 Winter Attendance				
	Registrations	Visits	Drop Ins	
Swim for Fitness	139	3159	424	\$6,114
WET	87	702	63	\$1,561
Adapted Aquatics	71	1470	32	\$2,131
Adult Fun Swim	68	1543	64	\$2,308
Total:	395	6,874	583	\$12,114
Projected Expenses				\$91,490
Projected Revenues				\$12,114
Differential				\$79,376
Impacted programs			Average daily attendance Winter Swim Season 09-10	
▪ Swim for Fitness			19	
▪ WET/Water Aerobics			8	
▪ Adapted Aquatics			8	
▪ Adult Fun Swim			7	
▪ Yuma Heat			36	
Average daily participation 2009-2010				78
Average daily participation 2008-2009				130
Consequences: Three distinct groups would be displaced for the winter months: Yuma Heat, Lap Swimmers and Seniors. Groups may be able to access similar programs at a privately-owned pool. Yuma High would have the option of paying to heat the pool for the month of October (if needed) for its swim team, but City staff would encourage them to move to VAC.				

Discussion

- Fees are adjusted each year. Staff has considered using a tracking program called Kid Tracks, but each child would have to be entered into the system and many times kids come to the pool without a parent or guardian and without identification.
- Why not implement both options since one would affect summer programs and the other winter programs?

Motion (McClendon/Brooks-Gurrola): To proceed with Option 1 and 2, as presented above.

Discussion

- The Yuma Heat swim team will be affected by Option #2. It would force them to use another venue; there are some options available. The organization could contract for use of VAC, which could accommodate competition.
 - Staff has not taken any action to find Yuma Heat another place because in doing so last year, staff caused a community uproar before the matter had been discussed with the City Council.
- Those participating in adaptive aquatics have few exercise options.
- It would be unfair to affect so many in the summer for so little savings without affecting so many more in the winter for huge savings.
- Yuma Heat has been running Marcus Pool; they have run a successful program, but usage has not increased.

Roll call vote: **approved** 6-1; Stuart voting nay.

Specialty Pay

Wicks explained that specialty pay includes pay for bilingual skills, car allowances, and standby pay. Staff is recommending that bilingual and standby pay be cut by 50% and that all car allowances be eliminated. Unless the City Council raises specific objections, these cuts will be carried forward into the budget figures. The total savings to the general fund will be \$360,000.

Discussion

- Bilingual pay should be cut altogether. It's nice to have when times are good, but times are not good.
- Those who speak Spanish will continue to help with those who don't.
- YPD has access to translation services, if needed.
 - Using translation services takes up officers' time.
 - Some bilingual officers carry a double load because they are always being called upon to translate.
 - Using the language service costs \$1 per minute and it is not available in the field.

Motion (McClendon/Beeson): To reconsider City Council's action regarding personnel furloughs and the exclusion of public safety personnel.

McClendon explained her motion: Sending a message that YPD and Yuma Fire Department (YFD) personnel are exempt causes all of the other employees to pick up the difference. The City must act as a team. The Police Chief and the Fire Chief have plans in place to implement furloughs in their departments without sacrificing safety. **Johnson** noted that requiring public safety personnel to take furloughs cannot help but impact service levels.

Roll call vote: **approved** 4-3; Stuart, Johnson and Krieger voting nay.

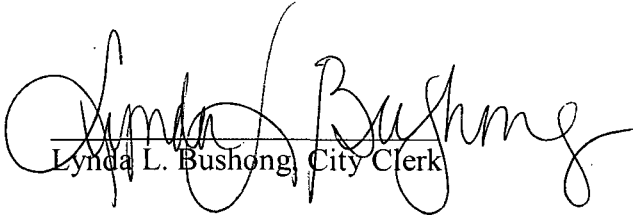
Moore: The above motion and vote nullify the prior City Council's action; it would be appropriate now to pursue alternative action, if that is City Council's desire.

Motion (McClendon/Mendoza): To approve the use of two employee furloughs days between now and June 30, 2010 and include public safety personnel in the requirement. Roll call vote: **approved** 4-3; Stuart, Johnson and Krieger voting nay.

Mayor Krieger presented Mark Watson with a commemorative plaque, thanking him for his service as City Administrator from January 4, 2005 to March 26, 2010.

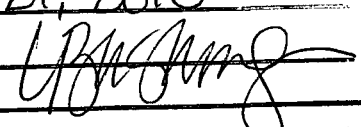
IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **Mayor Krieger** adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.


Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:


Alan L. Krieger, Mayor

Approved at the City Council Meeting of:
<u>July 21, 2010</u>
City Clerk: <u></u>